



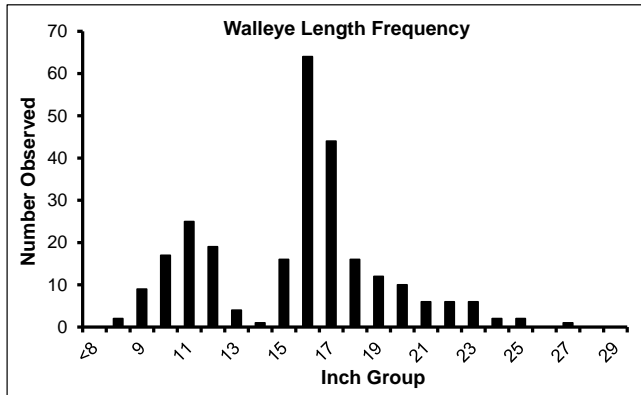
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

Lake: Range Line Lake

County: Forest

Year: 2018

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conducted a comprehensive survey of Range Line Lake, Forest County, to analyze the health of its fishery. Range Line Lake is located approximately 1 mile southwest of Wabeno, with 2 boat access points off of Range Line Lake Road. Range Line Lake covers 82 acres and achieves a maximum depth of 11 feet.



* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexually mature fish and all fish of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches long.

Walleye



A mark-recapture survey was conducted to estimate the abundance of adult walleye in Range Line Lake during 2018. Over 3 days of netting and one night of electrofishing during early May a total of 262 different walleye, 181 considered adults, were captured. Based on our survey data we estimate the adult walleye population in Rangeline Lake to be approximately 238 fish (2.9/acre) which is considered to be a moderately high density, nearly double the area average, though lower than the 2014 estimate of 4.6/acre.

This population is supported almost entirely by stocking, although some natural reproduction may be occurring. Range Line Lake has been stocked since the mid 1970's annually and most recently biannually on even numbered years since 2000.

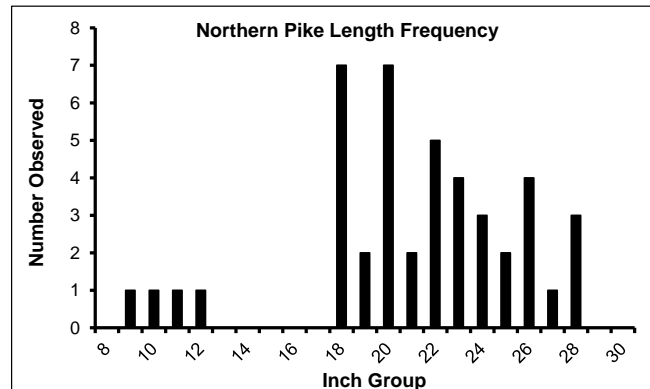
Every walleye captured during our spring survey, 262 fish, was measured to assess size structure of the walleye population. After removing fish captured less than 10 inches, approximately 74% of the fish sampled were ≥ 15 inches and 13% were ≥ 20 inches. This suggests that the size structure of the Range Line Lake walleye population is good.

Northern Pike

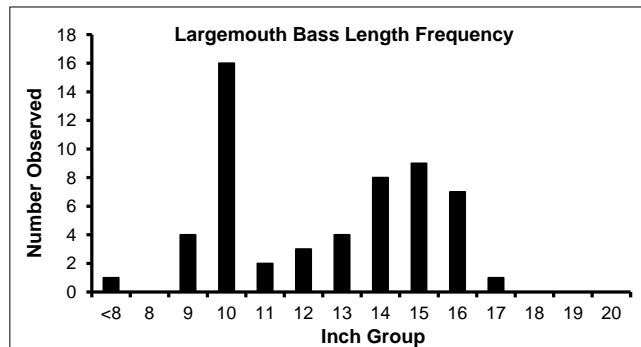


The northern pike population was assessed during the early spring fyke net and electrofishing survey designed to assess walleye. The relative abundance of northern pike was measured at 3.42 fish per net-night, suggesting this northern pike population is below average abundance for this region.

During the 2018 surveys we captured a total of 44 different northern pike, all of these fish were measured to assess size structure. After removing those fish < 14 inches approximately 60% of the fish sampled were ≥ 21 inches and 8% ≥ 28 inches in length. The size structure of this population is considered average when compared to other waters in this area.



* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexually mature fish and fish of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches long.



* Note: Adult bass are defined as all bass ≥ 8 inches long.

Largemouth Bass



The largemouth bass population was assessed during an electrofishing survey that was conducted on the night of 6/7/2018. The entire shoreline was sampled totaling 1.77 miles. During this survey a total of 55 different largemouth bass were captured, with 54 considered to be adults (≥ 8 inches). Relative abundance of adult largemouth bass was measured at 30.5 adults per mile, which is more than double the average relative abundance in our area (14.4 adults/mile).

Every largemouth bass captured during the bass electrofishing survey, a total of 55 different fish, was measured to assess the size structure of the population. The size structure of the Range Line Lake largemouth bass population is considered average with approximately 46% of the largemouth bass captured being ≥ 14 inches and no fish captured ≥ 18 inches in length. There were larger fish, up to 18.5 inches, captured during the early spring surveys, however since bass were not the target species they were not incorporated into size structure analysis.

Yellow Perch

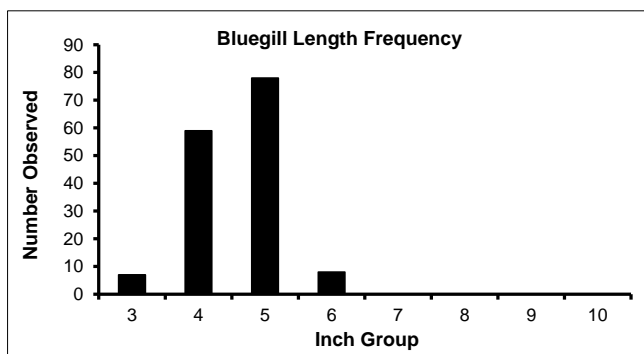
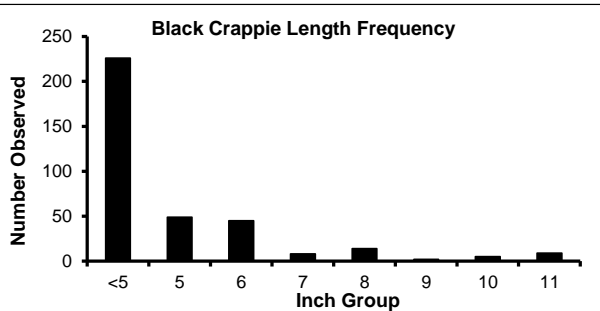
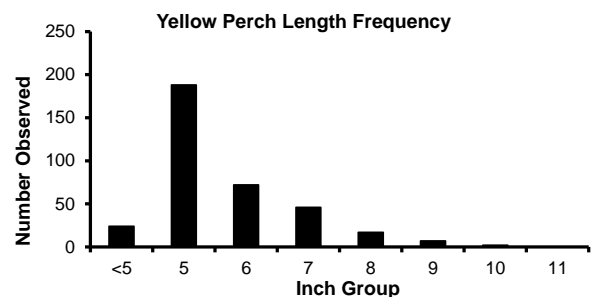


and Black Crappie



The early spring netting survey was used to assess abundance of yellow perch and black crappie in Range Line Lake. Relative abundance of yellow perch was measured at 29.67 fish per net-night, while black crappie relative abundance was 30.25 fish per net-night. At approximately 30 fish per net-night, both yellow perch and black crappie are considered abundant.

In total, 356 yellow perch and 363 black crappie were captured during the early spring netting survey. All of these fish were measured, and fish < 5 inches were removed, to assess the size structure of their populations. Yellow perch size structure in Range Line Lake is considered poor with only 22% of the fish sampled being ≥ 7 inches and 3% ≥ 9 inches in length. Black crappie size structure is also considered poor, with only 26% of the fish sampled being ≥ 8 inches and 14% ≥ 10 inches.



Bluegill



The early spring netting survey was used to assess the abundance and size structure of the bluegill population in Range Line Lake. Bluegill appear to be the most abundant panfish species in Range Line Lake with a relative abundance of 38.92 fish per net-night. This is a very high abundance of bluegill during early spring surveys, which suggests bluegills are like quite abundant.

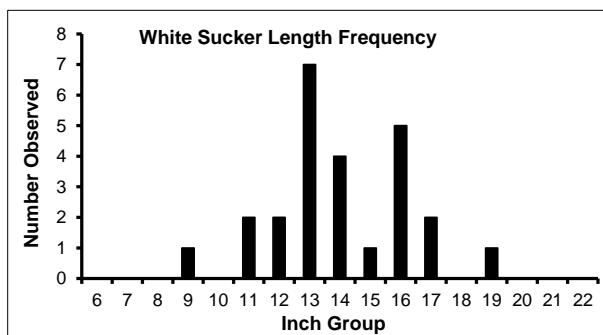
During an electrofishing survey on 6/7/2018 bluegill were captured for 0.5 miles. All bluegill captured during this survey, a total of 152 fish, were measured to assess size structure. The size structure is considered very poor with only 5% of the fish being ≥ 6 inches in length and no fish captured ≥ 7 inches.

White Sucker



The white sucker population was assessed during our early spring netting survey. Relative abundance of white sucker was measured at 2.08 fish per net-night, indicating a moderate abundance.

Every white sucker captured during this survey was measured to assess size structure. Approximately 96% of the sample was ≥ 10 inches and 12% was ≥ 16 inches.



Other Species

The species listed above were the focus of the 2018 survey, with surveys designed to best sample these individual species. Other species captured during our survey efforts include: pumpkinseed, golden shiner and creek chub. There were also 14 common carp were captured during our spring netting survey suggesting a moderate abundance. The largest carp caught measured 31.4 inches. Carp have been present in Range Line Lake since the early 1990's. Various removal efforts have failed to eliminate the species, which contribute to poor water quality and turbidity. There are two boat landings on Range Line Lake creating sufficient angler access.

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final.
For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Range Line Lake contact:

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